



Co-operative Energy Ltd

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27 May 1999

Mr. Tony Gill
Secretary
Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd
RMB 1282 Langs Road
BLAMPIED VIC 3364

Dear Mr. Gill:

Co-operative Principles

The board of Co-operative Energy Ltd has directed that I write to the Federation concerning the correct wording of the co-operative principles.

Our query relates to the 3rd Principle Member Economic Participation and the 7th Principle Concern for Community.

The wording for these principles which has been used by Co-operative Energy Ltd, the Federation and the Co-operatives Act 1996 is different from the official wording of the International Co-operative Alliance.

I have enclosed copies of a co-operative principles information sheet used by Co-operative Energy Ltd and an ICA document, Statement on the Co-operative Identity, which has the ICA wording of the principles. I have also attached a table for comparison purposes of the different wording. The differences in the wording are highlighted in **bold**.

While the different wording does not appear to change the meaning of the principles, would it not be more appropriate if the ICA wording was used for the principles?

In co-operation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'David Griffiths'.

David Griffiths
Secretary

Co-operative Principles	ICA wording	Co-operative Energy Ltd, Federation and Co-operatives Act 1996 wording
3 rd Principle Member Economic Participation	Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-operative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.	Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative. Usually, at least part of that capital is the property of the co-operative. They have usually received limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.
7 th Principle Concern for Community	Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.	While focusing on member needs, co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Co-opEnergy

Co-operative Principles

1. Voluntary and Open Membership

Co-operatives are voluntary organisations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

4. Autonomy and Independence

Co-operatives are autonomous self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co operative autonomy.

2. Democratic Member Control

Co-operatives are democratic organisations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and Women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-operatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and co-operatives at other levels are organised in a democratic manner.

5. Education, Training and Information.

Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders about the nature and benefits of co-operatives.

3. Member Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative. Usually, at least part of that capital is the property of the co-operative. They have usually received limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes; developing the co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

6. Co-operation between Co-operatives

Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

This document has been made available in electronic format
by the International Co-operative Alliance ICA

International Co-operative Alliance

Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy.

5th Principle: Education, Training and Information

Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

6th Principle: Co-operation among Co-operatives

Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7th Principle: Concern for Community

Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

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